

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For additional information, please
contact: Butch Knowlton (Office of Emergency Mgt.) at (970) 749-8122
or Flannery O'Neil (San Juan Basin Health Department) at (970) 335-2087
or Libby Faulk (EPA) at (303) 548-3967

August 8, 2015

10:25 a.m.

Drinking Water Update

The City of Durango wants to reassure its water utility customers that their tap water is safe for consumption. All pumping of raw water from the Animas River was discontinued Wednesday August 5th. The Utilities Department continues to draw raw water from the Florida River, which was not affected by the release of waste water from the Gold King Mine. "Safety is the foremost concern for our residents," Steve continued, "by closing off these systems, we prevent contaminating the equipment which provides our residents with clean drinking water."

La Plata County, EPA and San Juan Basin Health are conducting sampling of household water from water wells that are immediately next to the Animas River and may be influenced by river water. If you have a well, used for household water and would like a sample collected, please call the La Plata County Call Center at (970) 385-8700. Residents should not take their own samples; the EPA will send technicians to sample the water from homes. If discoloration is observed in their well water or residents are highly concerned, the EPA will provide drinking water.

County residents who have cisterns and haul their water are asked to reduce their water usage and obtain their water from water docks outside of Durango, such as Mancos or Bayfield. (Need to check with Mancos/Bayfield)

Water for livestock is available by calling the La Plata County Call Center at (970) 385-8700.

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